



News Release

Media Contacts: Joe DiLaura, 317/232-3396

Josh Richardson, 317/233-0998

Workers at South Bend's Adapto Indiana, Inc. eligible for federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS (January 9, 2007) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of South Bend's Adapto Indiana, Inc. are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country. In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released.

The Department of Labor determined that sales, production and employment at the South Bend facility will all decline absolutely upon the facility's shut down, scheduled for December 31, 2006. The findings were certified on November 30, 2006. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after November 1, 2005 through November 30, 2008 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the South Bend Adapto Indiana facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

The Department of Workforce Development has been preparing to assist workers who are affected by the recent layoffs to ensure that individuals can receive information and benefits that will help them ensure a successful return to work.

Eligible parties may contact the South Bend WorkOne at (574) 237-9675, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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